WE WAIT IN PATIENCE FOR DAY OF RETALIATION," SAYS MERCIER

"Not on This Earth, However," Cardinal Writes Von Bissing; "That We Have Already, for the Occupation Is Abhorred by Everybody in the World Who Has Sense of Honor"

Explanatory Comment

THE refusal of the Malines priests to have their identity cards stamped was patriotically in line with the whole Belgian policy of resistance to the utmost to the infamous deportation machinery. In his usual explicit and lucid style, Cardinal Mercier explains to Von Bissing precisely why this step was taken.

The Governor General was, of course, shamming. He knew perfectly well and the primate knew that Von Bissing knew that the refusal of many of the magis trates to deliver to the German authorities a list of the unemployed had occasioned a new procedure. It became necessary then, in order to execute the revolting deunemployed the employed. This was why the government decided to picket the priests. By a process of limination the available labor units might be discovered. The loyal clergy had no taste for co-operating in these devious and treacherous schemes.

The Cardinal's conviction, cloquently expressed in the appended correspondence, that the triumph of juswas inevitable, had come to be that of virtually h's entire nation.

At the close of 1916 and the beginning of 1917 it was difficult to foresee that America would so soon become associated in the defense of civilization, but there were heartening indications that she might play an effective role in halting the deportations. Brussels had been several times stirred by rumors of an ultimatum sent by the President regarding the enslaving of the Belgians.

The truth was otherwise and yet steps to stop the outrage had been taken. In response to a report from Brand Whitlock summing up the situation the State Department had dispatched a telegram approving the American minister's course and saying that Mr. Grew, the charge d'affaires in Berlin, had been instructed to make representations to the German Government on the subject and that the imperial authorities had promised an explanation. The development of the pressure through diplomatic channels was, of course, terminated by our entrance into the war.

of proscribed ones.

authorities to draw up a list of the unemployed. Most of the magistrates of Belgian communes, fully

realizing that they were intrusted with the duty of

safeguarding national integrity, refused to furnish under the heading "unemployed" a list of free citizens

destined to be transformed the next day into a list

resorted to a roundabout way. The "unemployed"

not being registered, their only remaining resource was to register those who were "employed." What

could not be obtained by direct means, it was sought

to procure by an indirect maneuver, viz., by graciously offering a stamp to those whom they wanted to spare

and thus by a process of subtraction to secure a list

came the bait offered to the burghers. The two attempts made by the military authorities had the same end in view: namely, to bring Belgians to co-

operate in organizing the deportation of their fellow-

countrymen. Both were to have the same result,

viz., the snatching from their homes of a class of

citizens as innocent and as free as any other Bel-

gians and to force them into exile and to work for

the enemy. The fact that all those hoping to reap

some advantage from the possession of a stamped

card did not suspect the presence of a hook concealed

in the bait can be readily conceived. The fact that

men of the world with family interests confided to

their charge did not fully realize all that their feel-

ings of national solidarity demanded is not to be

used as a grievance against them; but the priest with

whom temporal interests are as nothing compared

with those that are eternal; the priest who in his

capacity of preacher of the gospel and official representative of the Christian law would blush with

shame if he failed in his personal conduct to act in conformity with its loftiest teachings; the priest,

protector of the weakest, has, arising out of his

moral obligations, a keener insight, thus enabling him to realize that he would be doing less than his duty

were he not to push fraternal devotion beyond the

strict requirements of the common law. These are the lofty ideals by which the clergy of Malines have

been inspired and of which your Excellency has had

a glimpse in the letter addressed to the Kreischef

letter of November 29. "It would be iniquitous to let

deportation press hard on the working classes only.

cruel though it be-and precisely because it is cruel-

the middle class ought also to share. A large number

of my clergy have implored me to claim for them a

place in the vanguard of the persecuted. I wish to

place their offer on record and proudly submit it to

letter of November 29 are in harmony with the

attitude adopted by the Malines clergy as well as

with all my correspondence dealing with the deporta-

"Kidnapping of Thousands"

and also in most of mine of November 29, I made a

protest with all the energy of which I was capable

and with which the love of justice and charity had

inspired me, against the kidnapping of thousands of

our countrymen. Nevertheless, fearing that the

military authorities would remain deaf to these pro-

tests, I added to my entreaties this very natural

thought: "If, however, you should prove obstinate in injustice, allow at least our priests to lessen the

evil your acts of violence are inflicting on our peo-

ple; accept our co-operation to save what, according

to your own instructions, iniquitous though they be,

can still be saved." But this you would not have.

You have withheld your line of action from the con-

trol of those who, by their social vocation and their

daily contact with the lower classes, are best qualified

to exercise it. You signified to me personally that I

was not to offer a single word of comfort to those

about to leave. Forced to submit to your military

is held up and behind which is intrenched inviolate

right. On this side of the barrier, it is we, the rep-

resentatives of moral authority, who speak as masters. We cannot and will not let the Word of God be

fine nineteen priests 100 marks each for having de-

clined from conscientious motives to avail themselves

of a privilege extended to them. So be it. They will

pay the 100 marks out of their modest salaries or if

unable to meet this demand, they will perhaps satisfy

you at the expense of their liberty. Very well, so be it

once more. I know the spirit of our priests well

enough to foresee that they will be patient all the

same. They will drink to the dregs the cup of bitter-

ness held forcibly by you to the lips of a people which

tion, not retaliation on this earth, however; that we

have already, for the occupation regime you have

forced upon us is abhorred by everybody in the world

who has any sense of honor. I speak of the verdict

of history; I speak of the inevitable judgment of the

God of Justice. To yourself, who are, if I am credibly

informed, equally with the humblest of our workmen

a son of the Church of God, I venture to add you are

burdening your conscience with a heavy weight, in

sheltering behind your high authority an act of mar-

tial law which treats as a crime an act of Christian

Accept the assurance of my sincerc esteem, (Signed) D. J. CARDINAL MERCIER,

(CONTINUED TOMORROW)

Archbishop of Malines.

and pastoral abnegation.

We will wait in patience for the day of retalia-

has never wished you anything but good.

But there is a barrier before which military force

The military governor has had the effrontery to

regulations, I respected the order.

shackled.

In my letters of October 19 and November 10

The lines your Excellency quotes from that same

In the sacrifice imposed by the occupying power-

That is why I wrote to Baron von Bissing in my

on December 24 last.

After-the threat addressed to the burgomasters

of unemployed who were to be deported.

Checked by this refusal, the military authorities

Cardinal Mercier's Story

Including his correspondence with the German authorities in Belgium during the war, 1914 to 1918, edited by Professor Fernand Mayence of Louvain University and translated by the Benedictine Monks of St. Augustine's, Ramsgate,

[Continuation of Chapter XXX-The Deportation of the Unemployed.]

DOLITICAL Department of the Government General of Belgium, Brussels.

January 28, 1917. To His Eminence Cardinal Mercier, Archbishop of

The Governor General has directed me to inform your Eminence of the following facts: To enable him to select those of the unemployed who are to be deported from Malines and to facilitate the investigation of each individual case, the Kreischef summoned various classes of persons to the Meideamt, each one on a different day during the month of December, and among these were included ecclesiastics. Everybody enjoying immunity from deportation was requiredas has been expressly stated in a public notice-to have his identity card stamped in a special way at the Meldeamt. The said notice jurther stated that any one hindered from appearing in person could be represented by another on reasons for his nonappearance being given. The priests in question could doubtless have availed themselves of this regulation, but they preferred to absent themselves from the bureau and did not appear on a second date assigned to them. These priests afterward sent to the Kreischef a letter, in which they declared that their attitude in not answering the summons had been dictated by their unwillingness to co-operate in the measures adopted against the unemployed. As, according to the wording of the notice posted up, the question of the co-operation of priests did not arise, the motives assigned were not admissible, consequently the Kreischef had to acknowledge that the priests by their nonappearance had contravened his orders and by sentence of the Governor General each of them was mulcted in a fine

The Governor General deems it fitting to inform our Eminence of these facts. His Excellency cannot but perceive an open contradiction between the priests' declaration signed in the first place by Canon Vranken and the proposal made by your Eminence to seek the advice of the priests in the selection of the unemployed. In your letter of November 29, your Eminence said: "Priests who know the common people better than any one else would render valuable assistance in making these inquiries. Why is this aid refused?" Taking into consideration these words of your Eminence, the Governor General finds their refusal to obey the Kreischef's formal order altogether inexplicable and therefore regrets his inability to remit the fine imposed upon them.

I offer your Eminence the expression of my sincere esteem and I am yours devotedly. LANCKEN.

The Cardinal merely acknowledged the receipt of his letter of January 28 from Baron von der Lancken. He replied to the interim Governor General of Belgium, Baron von Huene, upholding the conduct of his priests. and pointing out how odious were the steps taken against them by the Governor General.

Archbishop's House, Malines,

January 31, 1917. To Baron von der Lancken, Chief of the Political Department of the Governor General of Belgium.

I have received the dispatch of January 28 you were good enough to send me on behalf of the Governor General.

The answer herewith inclosed which I have the honor to address to his Excellency deals with such delicate questions that it appears to me 'more judicious to write to him directly on the subject.

Receive, sir, the assurance of my sincere esteem. D. J. CARDINAL MERCIER, (Signed) Archbishop of Malines.

Magistrates Refuse to Act

Archbishop's House, Malines.

January 31, 1917.

To his Excellency Baron von Huene, interim Governor General of Belgium, Brussels. Your Excellency intrusted to the chief of your political department, Baron von der Lancken, the task of writing me to the effect that you fail to understand the attitude of the Malines clergy who deemed their conscientious duty to decline the offer of

having their identity card stamped. It seems to you that this attitude is out of harmony with this passage in my letter of November 9, 1916: "Priests who know the common people better than any one else would render the recruiters

valuable assistance. Why is their aid refused?" The military government has sentenced each of hese ecclesiastics to a fine of 100 marks, and your Excellency declares that to your regret you cannot

but ratify the sentence. The action of the clergy of Malines was taken with full deliberation just as your Excellency suploses, and their reasons for thus acting were given n writing to the Kreischef. That the intentions of this gentleman were well meaning in the case of certain ranks of society, I do not doubt, but his method of procedure, though welcome to the middle class, was a menace to the working classes. In order to organize more methodically and more surely the calling up of a part of the Belgian people destined to serve by fair means or foul the economic interests of the enemy, and therefore indirectly military interests, the occupying power ordered the communal

Premiers Look Over Text of Note has the to Be Sent Holland

to Be Sent Holland

Paris, Jan. 15.—(By A. P.)—Premiers Clemenceau, Lloyd George and Nitti will this morning examine the text of the demand to be made upon Holland for the extradition of former Emperor William, according to the Matin.

The premiers will also inspect the list of German officers and soldiers accused of violations of the laws of war and whose surrender will be demanded from the Berlin government. This list is said to comprise approximately 600 names.

SUPPRESS REDS IN RUSSIA

Berlin Press Reports Allies Will Give Germany Mandate for Purpose

London, Jan. 15 .- (By A. P.) - The London, Jan. 15.—(By A. P.)—The Berlin Press, according to a wireless message received here from the German capital, calls attention to an alleged intention of the Entente powers to give Germany a mandate for the suppression of bolshevism in Russia.

The Press declares that it is regarded as out of the question that Germany would undertake such a campaign unless she received adequate guarantees from the Entente.

Such an intention on the part of

has the question of a mandate to any country for the suppression of bol-shevism in Russia been under discus-sion by the representatives of the En-tente powers so far as is known.

EXAMINE KAISER DEMAND the Entente as mentioned in the Berlin Gabriele D'Annunzio, Italian poet-wireless message has not been reported aviator and leader of the raid on Flume from any of the Entente countries. Nor by "irregular" Italian troops, by a maker of theatrical costumes. The cosshevism in Russia been under discussion by the representatives of the Entente powers so far as is known.

D'Annunzio Sued in Paris

Paris, Jan. 15.—(By A. P.)—Suit has been brought here against Captain

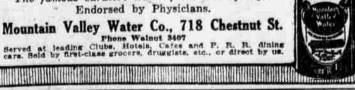
D'Annunzio Sued in Paris

Paris, Jan. 15.—(By A. P.)—Suit has been brought here against Captain

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